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The Year Just Closed.

The year 1897 which came to a close at midnight, was filled with events of much significance to the historians of nations, and no other year for a generation past has furnished so much food for the student of events which has a bearing upon the economic and political features of history. While no event presenting a startling climax has occurred, there has been much to attract the world's attention.

The most important developments that have attracted the attention of diplomats have been of recent occurrence, in connection with the movement of Germany toward the extension of her colonial power, and the beginning of the drama that is now being enacted in the Orient, inaugurated by Germany, having in view, it is believed, the dismemberment of the Chinese empire, which for thousands of years has stood separate and apart from the remainder of the world. The part that is being taken in the enactment of this despotism by Russia, England and France, portends developments during 1898, which may produce marked changes in the map of the Old World, and results more startling than were dreamed of six months ago. The movement is the beginning of a history that will be of the greatest importance to the future of Europe, and may not be altogether peaceful.

Germany's ambition to follow England's example and become a great colonial power, and to become the commercial and political rival of Great Britain has been manifest for some time, and first cropped out near the close of 1896, in the Transvaal incident. The German-Turkish outbreak afforded her another opportunity, which she was quick to grasp, to serve notice upon England and Russia, that she recognized no superior power as the arbiter of the destiny of Europe.

Aside from these events which have been agitating European diplomatic circles, and other minor matters, such as the Greco-Turkish war and the recent troubles in Austria, threatening an upheaval of great significance, have been the changes which have taken place in Spain, involving a reversal of that government's policy toward Cuba, and the inauguration of a more humane course.

The attitude of the United States was largely responsible for this, and at the beginning of the new year there are hopes that the next few months will witness a fair test of the attempt of Spain to bring the war to a close, and to establish a system of autonomy which will be a guarantee of future peace. How well the test will stand remains to be seen.

In regard to our own country the past year has been one of peace and growing prosperity. The twelve months past have witnessed the extension of our foreign trade and the benefits derived from a short crop in Europe. It has been an opportunity for the United States that has been met as no other country could have met it. With bountiful crops, and enough to supply the foreign and domestic demand, the American farmers have been the beneficiaries directly, and all branches of trade have felt the quickening influence of the extraordinary conditions. This country has been furnishing Europe with breadstuffs and drawing European gold in return. The treasury of the United States has had its gold reserve increased, and the money that has gone into the agricultural regions of the west has paid off millions of dollars of mortgages and given new life and hope to the people.

But this is not all of the best of the industrial history of the country for 1897. American manufacturers have invaded the markets of the world as they have never before, and have gained a prestige from which it will be impossible to detract them for years to come. Our iron products are going to England, to Russia and other European countries and American manufacturers are under-selling the iron masters of continental Europe and England in their own markets.

Our exports for the year have reached, in value, more than a billion dollars.

Our domestic trade has been largely increased in volume, and in some lines has far exceeded the figures of the most prosperous year of our previous history. Railroad earnings have greatly increased, mills and factories all over the country have ceased their idleness; money is to be had for the asking at low rates of interest; investors have not been backward; gold discoveries in Alaska have contributed to the general confidence in the future, and, while there has been no boom, and there is still room for improvement, none but the most confirmed pessimist can see other than an encouraging outlook for the future.

The new tariff bill, which at first failed to produce a sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of the government, owing to heavy advance imports in anticipation of increased duties, in each month pro-

ing the wisdom of its framers. Not only is the protection it affords having a good effect on the industries of the country, but the revenue under it is increasing, and from now on it is expected to produce a surplus. There will be, after January, no longer a deficit at the end of each month.

The year has witnessed the incoming of a new national administration which has the confidence of the people—an administration pledged to support the financial honor of the country, and, although the reforms that are needed in our currency system have not yet been enacted, there is a sincere effort being made to remedy existing evils. There is strong hope that the year which begins to-day will witness the passage of a measure that will place the financial fabric of the country on a strong, practical basis.

In West Virginia the year has been one of renewed activity in industrial lines, and the work of development has gone steadily forward, with bright hopes for the future. The long period of depression is regarded in this state, as elsewhere, at an end, and the dawn of 1898 is bright with promise.

Let us hope that industrially, commercially, politically, and in every other way, the year which has just been born may be even better freighted with prosperity and peace and happiness than its immediate predecessor, which, during the first half of its life, was handicapped by the remaining effects of the depression. In all these particulars, of the years that have gone before.

Senator Hanna's Campaign.

The news from Columbus, Ohio, makes it apparent that Senator Hanna can only fail of election, to succeed himself through the betrayal of the party by Republicans. It is clearly manifest that the solid support of the Democratic members for a fusion movement cannot be had, and that several Republicans who have been regarded as willing for such an unholy alliance have been misrepres-

ented. There is no doubt that if party lines are adhered to Mr. Hanna will have a clear majority of votes. Only the basest sort of departure from party integrity can defeat him. From every standpoint of party honor his election should be assured, for his choice to a full term was the main issue of the campaign last fall, and after a most remarkable struggle, in which Mr. Hanna fought the battle almost single handed for a reaffirmation of the Republican principles which prevailed in 1896, he carried the state, with the understanding upon all sides that such a victory meant his return to the senate. The forces of free silver throughout the state were arrayed against him, not so much because he was Mark Hanna and the manager of the national Republican campaign in 1896, but because he was the recognized candidate of the Republican party for the United States senate and the advocate of a sound and honest currency.

This was admitted to be the issue, and everywhere over the state, from the headquarters of the Populocratic committee to the meetings of Mr. Bryan, was imported in the last days of the contest, the fight against Hanna was heralded as the prelude to the campaign for free silver and a depreciated currency in 1900. It was this fact that attracted the attention of the entire country to Mr. Hanna's campaign. Party principle was at stake more than were Mr. Hanna's personal fortunes, and the battle was a test of Republican fidelity to the great cause of national credit and honor.

Referring to this feature of the contest, the New York Mail and Express declares that the issue summoned the people of Ohio "to declare by their ballots whether they were true to the cause of honest money and protection, which they had so splendidly vindicated in 1896, or whether they were ready to compromise the standard of Bryanism, free trade and national dishonor." Thus was the issue joined, and Mr. Hanna, who led the fight, succeeded after a campaign which has had few if any equals in the political history of the state of Ohio. That victory was gratifying, not only to the Republicans of the state, but to the Republicans of the country at large, who stood by Republican principles and held up the hands of a Republican President.

Our New York contemporary expresses fairly the sentiment of the entire country when it says:

"If the November vote of Ohio meant anything it was that the people of that state favored the re-election of Senator Hanna. In that way alone can the result of the struggle receive a full and logical expression. Any other outcome would be a perversion and a compromise of Republican principles which the party throughout the Union would view with disappointment and regret. For this reason the effort which Mr. Hanna's enemies are making to compel his defeat seems altogether selfish, unwise and reprehensible. It should not and it will not succeed, but the mere fact that it has been undertaken is deplorable, for the reason that it gives aid and comfort to the enemy and is calculated to restore the unhappy factional divisions among the Ohio Republicans which it was fondly hoped had been permanently obliterated."

It is incredible that Republicans in Ohio should lend their efforts to a movement which is demoralizing from a party standpoint. It is astounding that even a very few Republicans should so far forget the principle at stake as to form an alliance with free silver Democrats led by John R. McLean, whose political methods are so disreputable and scandalous that the respectable element of the Democracy of Ohio has long since repudiated them.

The whole intent and purpose of these Silver Republicans is to destroy the fruits of a Republican victory, to disorganize the organization of the party in state, and to discredit the Republican national administration in the national administration in the hands of the President. It remains the handful of Republicans who are alleged to be opposed to Senator Hanna, whether or not these conspirators shall succeed in this undertaking.

It will not do to say that another public man may be chosen. No man what his character or deserts, so result would be heralded over the country as a blow at Republican honor and a signal victory for the conspirators against the peace and integrity of the Republican party in Ohio. Nothing ranker treachery will characterize the action of those who fail to respond in this matter. That which is the duty of the Republican party should not be brought about by

can votes. The party has a majority of the legislature. It is a time when that majority should stand together. That is what the national Republican party expects of the Republican legislature of Ohio.

About the "Deficit."

The esteemed Register of Friday contains an editorial entitled "What about the Deficit?" in which the following occurs:

"The deficit was rapidly vanishing under the law of 1894 and bade fair to disappear entirely in another year in spite of the fact that a decision of the supreme court had cut off some \$30,000,000 of revenue from incomes. Under the Dingelby-McKinley law the deficit grows as never before."

Again let us ask our Republican friends what they are going to do about it?

From which we infer that the editor of the Register had not read the news columns of his own paper on the day previous. We cheerfully respond to the invitation contained in the last paragraph of the quotation by calling the attention of our contemporary to an Associated Press dispatch from Washington which appeared in its columns Thursday morning, giving a forecast of the December report of the government receipts and expenditures, and which it published prominently as a semi-official statement. The dispatch shows that the confidence of the framers of the Dingelby bill in its efficiency as a revenue producer, after the advance importations of last summer were consumed, is fully vindicated, and says:

"The increase from customs this month probably will exceed November by \$2,500,000 or \$3,000,000, which will leave A SURPLUS FOR THE MONTH. Independent of the receipts and payments on account of the Pacific railroad transaction, the total receipts this month would have exceeded the expenditures by approximately \$1,750,000. The returns from internal revenue sources show a gratifying increase and it is not unlikely that the December statement will show an excess over November of \$4,000,000."

Altogether the situation as far as revenues are concerned is very gratifying to the treasury officials, who confidently predict that with the exception of January, when heavy interest payments are due, there will be a surplus for each of the remaining months of the present fiscal year.

Having published this important item of news from the national capital in Thursday's issue, along with every other Associated Press paper in the country, our contemporary, in its editorial of Friday, seems to be somewhat muddled and its article is calculated to confuse its readers, and to puzzle them to know whether or not the editor's assumption concerning the revenue feature of the tariff bill is entitled to more weight than the official figures from the treasury department at Washington.

If you haven't resolved to do better this year, make a vow that you will try to do no worse.

THEY FOUND OUT.

The other day two young fellows happened to notice this sign above a small and dingy looking saloon, says the Chicago News:

"Alonzo Gustave Bryan."

"Ah," said one of them, as he made the discovery, "I'll bet that man was born in Germany, his father being, in course, an Irishman, and his mother an Italian."

"Why?" questioned the other.

"Well," was the triumphant answer, "his father, of course, being satisfied with the 'Bryan' allowed the mother a chance at his first name, hence the 'Alonzo.' And neither of the parents being German the 'Gustave' must have been added because he was born in Germany."

"No," was the scoffing reply of the other, after a moment's reflection, "he was born in Italy and his mother was a German. His father named him 'Alonzo' an Italian name, because he had probably lived so long in the country that he had grown to love it; an exile, or something like that, see? And his mother being German, of course, put in the 'Gustave.'"

"Bah!" was the answer to this.

"Well, I'll tell you what," was the next proposition, "let's go in and see."

"It's a go," was the reply, and the two investigators entered the bar and lined up at the bar they found inside.

A man presiding over it was a genial fellow of unmistakable Irish nationality and while he was preparing the harmless concoctions ordered one of them began to explain their mission and the reasons which had led them within.

"So," said the man on the other side of the counter, smiling, with no intimation of surprise, "ah, well, that isn't my name at all."

"It isn't?" gasped the two in astonishment.

"No; you see, there's a great many Irish-boys living in this neighborhood and also the names of the famous, the Irish-boys see the 'Alonzo' and come in, the Dootch see the 'Gustave' and they come in; and, av course, the Irish see the 'Bryan' and they come in. My name is 'John Patrick Bryan.'"

"Oh!" commented the two young fellows faintly.

"Yes," replied their informant vigorously, shaking the mixture he was preparing and winking at them slyly; "and his guinea name do be a good many (swish swish) who come in here in a while (swish swish) to rubber-neck and find out the parties-alike wiles as the think, an'—"

But the young men had given each other glances of deep meaning and having placed on the counter a coin to pay for their drinks they made a concerted movement toward the door.

WHAT THE BACHELOR SAYS.

Occupation was the thief of mine. A man generally feels about as things taste.

A man's clothes are a part of him; a woman is a part of her clothes. No woman is a true woman unless she believes in a lot of foolish little superstitions.

Probably every old bachelor gets at least three things from women every Christmas that he has never seen, and has to ask somebody what they use them for.

If it really gets to be the fashion in this country for women to be photographed in their night-dresses, their husbands ought to shame them out of it by getting their pictures taken in their night-shirts.

—New York Press.

Helen Keller.

Mute, sightless victim. From what uncharted world. Hast voyaged into life's rude sea, As if some dark mysterious. Shouldst hither slide, with spurs alant. And sails all furled?

In what perpetual dawn. Child, the wonderless how. Hast kept thy spirit far withdrawn? Thy midnight undisturbed? What visions by thy soul eyes appear? What voices mayst thou hear? Speak as we know not how? Of grief and joy and love, Of radiant child.

Even thou a share? Can mortal talent. Child, the wonderless how. Hast kept thy spirit far withdrawn? Thy midnight undisturbed? What visions by thy soul eyes appear? What voices mayst thou hear? Speak as we know not how? Of grief and joy and love, Of radiant child.

Learn from Earth's crime and plan? Not as we see. Earth, sky, insensate forms, ourselves. Thou seest, but vision-free. Thy fancy soars and delves. Albeit no sounds to us relate. The wondrous things Within thy starry night create. Pity thy uncomprehending. Child, the wonderless how. Hast kept thy spirit far withdrawn? Thy midnight undisturbed? What visions by thy soul eyes appear? What voices mayst thou hear? Speak as we know not how? Of grief and joy and love, Of radiant child.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure

When the first moly was started "Favorite" took deliberate aim and fired, and when the smoke cleared away the hare was standing on a distant hill with one eye pulled down at them, and John's dog was lying dead on the ground.

When he was at the very zenith of his power, unexpectedly, one day, Jesus stood before him, requesting baptism at the hands of John. Jesus started back in self-depreciation, at once acknowledging the infinite superiority of the One who stood before him, crying, "I have need to be baptized of thee! Jesus, in his reply, acknowledged the necessity of the necessity of repentance; he stands under no ceremonial duty, and thus identify himself more thoroughly with those to save whom he had come to earth. With this explanation, John consented to baptize him.

An old proverb says, "Go to the Jordan, and thou shalt see the Trinity." In the river, with the baptismal waters sparkling in the sun, the Son of God, through the rent heavens, the Spirit of God descended in form of a dove; while in the ineffable depths sounded the voice of the Father, identifying his Son. A scene worthy the inauguration of the Messiah. No king ever had so splendid a coronation, no priest such an effective installation.

MOSAIC FROM COMMENTARIES.

Pharisees and Sadducees: Self-satisfied formalists—calm, metaphysical, cold, Robertson. . . . Who warned you? Gave you the hint of impending judgment? . . . Fruits meet: John saw want of prospect of reformation correspondent with the repentance. Whedon. . . . Abraham to our Father: That pillow on which the nation so fatally reposed—that rock on which at length it was to be broken. As laid into root: As it were read, strike: figure of impending judgment, only averted in the day described. Ibid. . . . I baptize you: Baptism of proselytes from heathenism. Ibid. . . . Baptism of Jews quite new. Robertson. . . . I baptize with water—with the Holy Ghost: The meaneast service I can render to the Mightier than I am for me. I advise you to be baptized. Ibid. . . . What shall I do? A word of purification. It is his sole prerogative to dispense the inward reality. J. F. B. . . . 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